

What is claimed is:

1. A host management apparatus being placed on a network to which hosts of an electronic conference system are connected, comprising:

5 a host authentication section for authenticating a selected host; and

a host information registration section for registering host information including IP address information of a host authenticated by said host authentication section.

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2. The host management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a host information storage section for storing the host information of the host authenticated by said host authentication section.

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3. The host management apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising: a host information update section for updating the host information stored in the host information storage section.

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4. The host management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the host information update section updates the host information in a predetermined cycle.

5. The host management apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising:

5 a host information exchange section for mutually
exchanging the host information between said host
management apparatus and another host management apparatus.

6. The host management apparatus according to claim 2,
further comprising:

10 a host information exchange section for mutually
exchanging the host information between said host
management apparatus and another host management apparatus.

7. The host management apparatus according to claim 3,
15 further comprising:

a host information exchange section for mutually
exchanging the host information between said host
management apparatus and another host management apparatus.

20 8. The host management apparatus according to claim 4,
further comprising:

a host information exchange section for mutually
exchanging the host information between said host
management apparatus and another host management apparatus.

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9. The host management apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein the host information exchange section exchanges the
host information in a predetermined cycle.

5 10. The host management apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein the host information exchange section exchanges the
host information in a predetermined cycle.

11. The host management apparatus according to claim 7,
10 wherein the host information exchange section exchanges the
host information in a predetermined cycle.

12. The host management apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein the host information exchange section exchanges the
15 host information in a predetermined cycle.

13. A host management method of managing hosts of an
electronic conference system on a network, comprising the
steps of:

20 authenticating a selected host; and
registering host information including IP address
information of a host authenticated in said step of
authenticating the selected host.

25 14. The host management method according to claim 13,

further comprising the steps of:

storing the host information of the host authenticated in said step of authenticating the selected host;

5 updating the stored host information; and

acquiring host information of a host that enables to be connected for taking part in a conference.

15. A host management program of a host management
10 apparatus being placed on a network to which hosts of an electronic conference system are connected, causing a computer to perform:

a host authentication function of authenticating a selected host; and

15 a host information registration function of registering host information including IP address information of a host authenticated by the host authentication function.